

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

Claims 1-24 are pending and under consideration. Claims 2-10 and 18-22 are objected to.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1, 11-17 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wada.

Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites a residual developer withdrawing member disposed in a spaced-apart relation with the developer supplying member to withdraw the residual developer from the developer-supplying member. Thus, the residual developer withdrawing member withdraws the residual developer from the developer-supplying member. Present FIG. 2 illustrates these features.

In contrast, as shown in FIG. 2 of Wada, the return roller 28 receives toner from the developing roller 21. In particular, there is an arrow which points from the developing roller 21 to the return roller 28. However, the developing roller 21 is not a developer-supplying member. Instead, a toner supplying member 25 supplies toner to the developing roller 21. However, the return roller 28 does not withdraw toner from the toner supplying member 25.

Independent claims 11, 23 and 24 are patentably distinguishable from Wada at least for similar reasons.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

OBJECTED TO CLAIMS:

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that objected to claims 2-10 and 18-22 are patentably distinguishable over the cited reference in their present form.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is


requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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